

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 22 and 24-33 remain in this application. Claim 23 has been canceled.

1. Allowed Claims/Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1 – 22 and 24 - 33.

2. § 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,620,707 (the Van Damme patent).

The Examiner asserts that Van Damme teaches a glass tube (crucible).

Applicants believe that the preceding amendment overcomes the rejection.

3. § Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has indicated that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed August 30, 2001 failed to comply with 37CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent, each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed, and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. Specifically, no copy was provided for the following references: Canada 1156467 and J.E. Midwinter et al., "Fiber Pulling by Double Crucible Apparatus", Optical Fibers for Transmission, pp. 167-179.

An IDS listing the missing references, and a copy thereof, are provided herewith.

4. Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, Applicants believe the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims 1 - 22 and 24 - 33 and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant

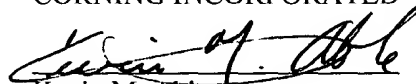
such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Kevin M. Able at 607-974-2637.

Respectfully submitted,

CORNING INCORPORATED

Date: 7/2/03


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